

A

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, August 9. 1707.

AND now we are come to see if another Blow can be given the *Empor*, to Ballance his approaching Conquest of *Toulon*, and truly I think there may, and if it be any where it must be by the *Swede*, on the side of the Hereditary Countries.

I am told, I must be very cautious of speaking of the *Swedes*, that I must allow of every thing he does to be right and just; I must not so much as say he designsthis or that; nay, I must not speak well of him, but I shall be observ'd and corrected.

Review, 66. I say of him— That there is yet something unknown to *Europe*, in the Projects of that Prince, I cannot but believe, and time must discover— Either he has something in View beyond the usual Guesses of the World, or else he is the most Impolitick nothing-doing Prince in the

World—And this we have no Reason to say of him yet.

What any Man can find out in this to call a Reproach upon the King of *Sweden*, I cannot imagine; and as indeed I am in a Place, where the People have the unhappiness not to enjoy the Benefit of that Gentleman's wise Observations, and indeed not at all to want them, so I cannot be directly inform'd of the Objections — But sure to write, that we have had no Reason to say, the King of *Sweden* has been an Impolitick nothing-doing Prince, can offend no Friend to the *Swedes*.

Again, I say it of the King of *Sweden*, he cannot be suppos'd to lye still in *Saxony*, with near 50000 Men at his Heels the prime of a Campaign, and have no Design at all in *Saxony*; he can have no need to remain, he has sufficiently humbled both that Country

try and its Prince; in *Poland* and in *Livonia*, he is more than wanted to relieve his Confederates in one, and his own Subjects in the other, Ravag'd Impoverish'd, Ruin'd and Massacred by the Barbarous *Muscovites*, and yet he stirs not.

He cannot be afraid of the *Muscovite*, tho' if he lets him alone, he may in time Repent it; but at present the Army in *Saxony* is able to drive the *Muscovite* out of all he has gain'd—It cannot be, sure it cannot be, that he forgets or neglects his Allies or Subjects, that would be unfaithful to one, and unnatural to the other—What then can it be, it must be that he has some great thing in View, which is more than a Ballance to all the Insults he suffers nearer home? — And this thing 'tis plain, is in no one's view but his own.

If he has no View, no Design, no Prospect, no Meaning; let any Man say, whether he is not an Impolitick nothing-doing Prince or no.

He has hitherto indeed shown himself a Glorious and Active and a Politick Prince—But since nothing must be said against him, I would be glad to hear what Account can be given, why a Prince so Great, that has Ravag'd *Poland*, Conquer'd *Saxony*, and in a manner Insulted the *Emperor*, should, pushing on his Glory, his Conquest, his great Designs—At the same time, leave his poor Subjects of *Livonia*, his own People, his own Children, for *Kings* are, or ought to be Nursing Fathers to their Subjects; expos'd, and in a manner unguarded, to the Mercy of the Cruel *Muscovite*—That has let *Narva*, the Capital City of the Country, fall into the Hands of the *Czar*; that has let several other Towns there be taken by Storm, and his faithful Subjects be Butcher'd without Relief; that suffers the *Muscovite* now to build Ships, spread the Gulph of *Finland* with Piracies, and Rob, Plunder, and destroy his Trading Subjects—And all this while their Prince was Victor in *Poland*, pressing forward, and Invading others, and particularly during the Siege of *Narva*, had no Army in *Poland*, in the Field against him.

Is this to be a Hero, is this the Price of a Prince's Glory, is this the way to raise a King's Fame in the World? If it be, misera-

ble is the Lot of the Subjects of those Princes, who obtain the Great Titles and Honours of this World—This was never the Practice of King *William*, nor of any good King that ever I read of.

I believe the War in *Livonia*, cost the Lives of 25000 of the good People in the Country, and his *Swedish* Majesty never thought fit to make any Movements, or send any considerable Detachments to their Succours; let the Objector tell me who must Account for all that Blood, and let the Gentleman, who so haughtily challeng'd me to defend King's *Williams* Memory in the Affair of *Glencoe*, and which I believe I have done to his confusion—Let him defend this piece of Kingly Conduct if he can.

In vain we have been talking against Tyrants, and against the Arbitrary Power of Princes; if he is a Hero that betrays his People to another Tyrant, and he a Tyrant, that defending them from all other Hands, pinches them by his own.

The King of *France*, is much, less a Tyrant than such a one, for whatever he has done to his People himself, he has taken care they shall fall into no bodies Hand but his own—And I think I may say without Offence, That Prince who neglects the just Defence of his own Subjects on any account whatever, is every way as much a Tyrant, as he that Oppresses them; nay, and this Negative Tyranny is of the two much the worse.

'Tis as if the Shepherd should leave his Sheep, or a Father his Family, to fall into the Hands of Wolves and Thieves. *He that provides not for his Family*, says the Text, *is worse than an Infidel*; not provide for their Defence, is as bad as not to provide for their Substance; and indeed, take the Father one way, and the Prince another, 'tis just the same thing.

Woe then to that Nation whose King is a Hero—And what Robbery for burnt Offering is it, to sacrifice the Blood of our own People to one Enemy, to prosecute Triumphs and fancied Glory over another! let the Friends to the Character of a Great Prince now in the World, clear him then of this Negative Tyranny if they can, but this by the way.

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We come now to the King of Sweden, and the Emperor. All the probable guesses I have met with at the Designs of that Prince, point at the Emperor; I confess, I am not yet furnish'd with the Ground of the Misunderstandings between them; I know the Affront pretended, is letting 1500 Muscovites pass thro' Silesia, and slip out of his Hands; but here it will remain to examine,

1. What right the King of S...n had, to expect or demand, the delivering up of these Troops?
2. Whether the Emperor, in offering to refer himself to the Arbitrement of England and Holland, does not show himself fair and Peaceably inclin'd?

If it be said the Emperor makes that offer, because he is not now in a Condition to deal with the Swede, it may be as well answer'd; the Swede perhaps makes such a frivolous pretence of a Quarrel, only because he knows the Emperor is not in a condition to deal with him, and I think any body may determine which is most generous.

O, but the King of Sweden is a Protestant Prince, and that's a good Authority to make War upon a Popish— To this I answer; we have been very loth to take that Argument inverted for good, and when Ferdinand II. invaded the Protestants, for making the famous Treaty, call'd the *Conclusions of Leipzick*, it was exalted by the Catholicks as a meritorious Action; but it was call'd Tyranny, Murther, and Robbery by the Protestants.

But the Inhabitants of Silesia, and Bohemia, Sollicite the Swede to help and deliver them from the Cruelty, Oppression, and Persecution of the Emperor— This indeed is the best Title he has to att upon, because any Prince may Assist an Oppres'd Nation to recover their just Rights— But 1st. It does not yet appear to us, that there is such an Application made to him. 2d. If there is, why is the 1500 Muscovites made the Pretence? the other is too good a Cause to be ashamed of; his Predecessor, the Glorious Gustavus, and his Imitator the as Glorious King William, bravely and publicly were call'd to Ransom Oppress'd Nations, and

own'd the Call, and brought to pass their Attempts openly.

But I come from the Cause of this War, if it happens, to the Consequence. I own as Matters stand now, His Swedish Majesty need but ask and have, wish and take; if he will enter Bohemia, or Silesia, or Austria, or Bavaria, 'tis all his own, and there are really no Forces any where to resist him— But must the Empire needs dissolve, are there not three or four Remedies for the Emperor?

1. May he not immediately recall his Army from the Neapolitan Expedition?
2. Grant Peace and Liberty to the Hungarians? And,
3. Make a separate Peace with France, and if that, we shall have great occasion on this side to thank his Swedish Majesty for his care of the Protestant Religion indeed?

And without undervaluing the Swedes at all, for indeed they are not to be undervalued; I must tell them they would not be able to look the Emperor in the Face, nor maintain their Footing in Germany, no, not one Summer.

The Emperor is indeed low now, as being divided in his Forces for the several Wars he is now engag'd in; his Forces are Great, and his Troops some of the best in Europe; but they are scatter'd in Transilvania, Hungary, Naples, Piedmont, Bavaria, and the Rhine; if but the three Articles above should be heartily apply'd to, in one Winter you would see Prince Eugene of Savoy facing the Swedes, at the Head of 80000 Men, and what wild work would these things make in Christendom?

If any Man will say this is unlikely, and the Swedes cannot be so beaten; let them look no farther back than to King Casimir of Poland, and the Great King of Sweden Car. Gustavus, Grandfather to his present Majesty, and there they will find the Swedes compleat Masters of Poland, they had ravag'd and overrun the whole Kingdom, and driven the King to a perfect flight out of his Kingdom into Silesia; and yet the very same King of Poland, without any assistance but of his own People, having but recover'd their